

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 24, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-32, 34, and 35 are pending in the Application. Claims 18, 32, 34, and 35 stand rejected and Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32 stand objected to (Claims 1, 4, 6, 8-17, and 19-31 having been allowed). Specifically, Claims 18 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson et al. (US 6,449,275) in view of Blanc et al. (US 6,411,599). Finally, Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32 stand objected to for containing various informalities.

In response to these rejections and objections, Claims 1, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and Claims 4, 34, and 35 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Objection to Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32:

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32 stand objected to for containing various informalities.

In response to this objection, all of Examiner's suggested corrections have been made.

Therefore, Applicant's submit that the objection to Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11-13, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 32 for containing various informalities has now been overcome and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 18 and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claims 18 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, Examiner indicates that Claims 18 and 32 recite the limitation "the local timing subsystem" in line 4 and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims, the claims previously referring to two separate local timing subsystems, one for the central switch fabric subsystem and one for the distributed switch fabric subsystem. From the context of the claims, it is not clear to which local timing subsystem "the local timing subsystem" refers.

In response to this rejection, Claims 18 and 32 have been amended to recite, in relevant part, "a central timing subsystem coupled to the at least one local timing device subsystem and the at least one local timing subsystem," thus explicitly referring to both "local timing subsystems."

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 18 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 34 and 35 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) - Andersson et al. and Blanc et al.:

Claims 34 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson et al. (US 6,449,275) in view of Blanc et al. (US 6,411,599).

In response to this rejection, Claims 34 and 35 have been canceled.

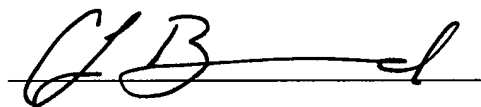
Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andersson et al. (US 6,449,275) in view of Blanc et al. (US 6,411,599) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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